



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES OF STATE WATER PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

C. L. "Butch" Otter
Governor

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
November 28, 2007

Jerry R. Rigby
Chairman
Rexburg
At Large

Terry T. Uhling
Vice Chairman
Boise
District 2

Bob Graham
Secretary
Bonners Ferry
At Large

**Charles "Chuck"
Cuddy**
Orofino
District 1

Leonard Beck
Burley
District 3

L. Claude Storer
Idaho Falls
District 4

**Gary M.
Chamberlain**
Challis
At Large

**Lawrence "Vic"
Armacost**
New Meadows
At Large

The Chairman of the committee, Gary Chamberlain, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Board member absent was Vic Armacost.

Staff members present were Hal Anderson, Administrator of Planning and Technical Division; Brian Patton, Bureau Chief of Planning; Helen Harrington, Planning Section Manager; Sandra Thiel, Planner, Neeley Miller, Planner and Patsy McGourty, Administrative Assistant.

Guests in attendance were:

David Blew, Idaho Power Co.	Shelley Davis, Barker Rosholt
Lynn Tominaga, Idaho Ground Water Users	John Rosholt, Barker Rosholt
Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United	Bill Block, JUB Engineers
Peter Anderson, Trout Unlimited	

Chairman Chamberlain turned the meeting over to Helen Harrington.

Agenda Item No. 1, Public Information Process Update

Ms. Harrington discussed the news release that recently went out to the media all over the state. In addition, she had conducted two radio interviews, sent out a mailing and an e-mail mailing to 325 parties. In response she had received two letters from Nez Perce and Clearwater County Commissioners. Ms. Harrington tentatively plans to attend the Idaho Association of Counties February meeting in Boise, to present the Board plan update process.

Also in response, some parties have requested copies of comments sent in. There was some discussion with IDWR information tech staff about using a program called List Serve to dispense information on the web site. However, after obtaining an upgrade to the program, staff have discovered that it is no longer a good tool and cannot be used to meet department needs. Other methods of dispersing comments will be used.

Agenda Item No. 2. Review of Optimum Use Group Policies (cont.)

The group began reviewing the State Water Plan section 1. Optimum Use at 1B – Beneficial Use of Water. No changes were made to this section.

In section 1C – Transferability of Use the discussion of the use of the word “unappropriated” came up again. This issue has not been resolved and so there was no change.

In section 1D – Water Supply Bank the group discussed the issue of consumptive versus non-consumptive use. There was no change.

In section 1E – Reasonable Use the group decided to move this to the Conservation Group in the State Water Plan.

In section 1F – Conjunctive Administration Mr. Anderson suggested changing flood flows in paragraph one to climate variability. Another suggestion was to add irrigation delivery systems after channel banks in paragraph one.

In section 1G – Ground Water Withdrawal the group discussed Idaho Code 42-237 & 42-226 regarding the director’s powers. They also added this policy:

It is the Policy of Idaho that Ground Water Aquifers shared with neighboring states be managed collaboratively.

Where interstate aquifers issues are involved, the state policy is to work collaboratively to develop and share technical tools, including models and data collection so that the states can cooperatively manage the states’ resources. Any agreements established should maximize flexibility and adaptive approaches. Memorandums of Agreement or Memorandums of Understanding are preferable to more rigid interstate compacts.

In section 1H – Spring Flows agreed to postpone discussion of this section until staff could summarize policies from previous plans and report back to the committee on December 11th.

In section 1I – Water Measurement staff agreed to compose additional language to include automating and accessibility of measurements and data to promote their importance. This will also be discussed in December.

In section 1J – Water Quality there were no changes.

In section 1K – Pollution Control the group decided to leave as it is.

In section 1L – Recharge Mr. Anderson suggested adding the words “adaptive mechanisms to minimize the impacts of climate change may be a strategy for enhancing stream flows.” The group decided to discuss the state’s role at the next meeting.

In section 1M - the draft policy included from 2/20/2004 regarding Local Natural Flow Rental Pool was deleted. The group discussed similar projects done in the Lemhi are now being done in the Wood River; however, these projects were legislated. The group made the change, "...for the Lemhi River Basin be expanded to other basins as needed and determined necessary by the Board."

Agenda Item No. 3, Assignments/Actions

Ms. Harrington will make a separate list of recommendations for each policy that will come at the end of the new State Water Plan.

Agenda Item No. 4, Future Meeting Schedule and Logistics

Future meetings were discussed. In addition to the meeting Tuesday, December 11th at 10:00 a.m. in Boise, dates were set for January 7, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and February 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. both in Boise.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2007.

Patsy McGourty
Administrative Assistant II